



N8 Research Partnership – Statement on Rights Retention

Universities of Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, York

The N8 Research Partnership represents the research-intensive universities of the North of England. 12% of all UK academics work at N8 universities as well as almost 200,000 students. The N8 is one of the strongest regional academic consortia in the UK and believes the time is now right to make a coordinated statement on the rights held by our academics over their research.

- ***The world is changing fast.*** In April 2022, the UKRI made it mandatory for all research published in journals to be made immediately available. This can be via fully OA or transformative Gold journals' APC charges or journals released on a transitional Read & Publish deal without APC charges. It can also be via depositing the author accepted manuscript and making it openly available without embargo.
- ***Researchers need to retain their rights.*** In order to achieve this third route to open access researchers need to be able to apply a CC BY licence and place their accepted manuscript in an institutional or other preferred repository. This must now be done without embargo granted to any publisher.
- ***Some publishers are no longer compliant.*** A number of publishers do not accept that a researcher's original rights should be retained by them. Practically speaking this means that publishers may not accept manuscripts where an application has been made for a CC BY licence and the researcher has clearly stated that they own their research.
- ***Rights Retention is only mandatory for certain publishers but recommended for all.*** Each N8 university will have its own position which may supersede the publisher's requirements, but ultimately if a researcher is able to publish via an APC to a Gold journal or in a journal covered by a Read & Publish deal then researchers do not need to assert their rights. However, it is strongly recommended that researchers do not by default transfer intellectual property rights to publishers and do use a Rights Retention statement as standard practice.
- ***The N8 Statement on Rights Retention supports our researchers.*** In coordinating the N8 universities' position on rights retention we seek to support all our academics if they find themselves caught between funder's and publisher's policies. Each N8 university will have its own policy but this statement aims to support all our researchers in retaining their rights.
- ***It is funders, not publishers who stipulate regulations for grant awards.*** Similarly it is universities, not publishers who provide the environment which allows research to take place.
- ***The N8 fully supports the shift to open access.*** It has never been more important for the world to have access to research and the N8 Research Consortium believes that asserting Rights Retention at an individual or research group level can benefit wider society.

The N8 is working through its PVC's for Research, Research Offices, Legal Departments and Libraries to support our researchers not only in research activity but in global open access to that knowledge.